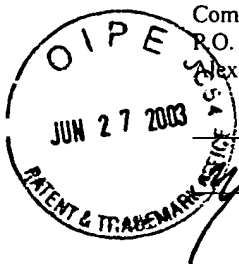


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Date
Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C.
Buchanan Ingersoll, P.C.

3635 #18
7/23/03
T-LL

Patent

Attorney Docket No.: 000519

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Robert E. Reuter, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/636,359) Examiner: C. Nguyen
Filing Date: August 11, 2000) Group Art Unit: 3635
Title: HYBRID OFFICE PANEL
CONSTRUCTION FOR A MODULAR
OFFICE FURNITURE SYSTEM

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 9, 2003, the following remarks are offered:

Remarks

Claims 1-2, 6-13, 15, 16 and 52, 54 are pending in the application and currently stand rejected. Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 17, 18, 55 and 56 over the prior art of record.

Claims 1, 2 6-13, 15, 16 and 52, 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Miedema (U.S. Patent No. 6,260,320⁴). Based upon the Declarations submitted by the inventors under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, this rejection is respectfully traversed.